



25267

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Atty. Docket: 8266-1089 }
Applicants: Risk, Jr. }
Invention: SIDERAIL PAD FOR }
HOSPITAL BED }
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COMMUNICATION

Mail Stop Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Applicant respectfully submits this communication herewith the disclosure of the present continuation application for the Examiner's convenience and to bring to the Examiner's attention corrections and additions found in the present continuation application compared to the parent application, except for the new claims. Applicants believe the corrections and additions to the continuation application are supported by the parent case.

Differences Between the Specification of the Present Application and the Parent Application are provided beginning on page 2 of this paper. This is not an amendment as these changes have already been incorporated into the present application as filed. Additions are in bold. Deletions are in brackets.

Remarks begin on page 8 of this paper.

**Differences Between the Specification of the Present Application
and the Parent Application**

In Fig. 1, the reference numeral 21 has been added.

The paragraph beginning on page 1, line 1 differs from the parent application as follows:

This application is a continuation of U.S. Application Serial No. 09/687,715 filed October 13, 2000 which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/159,803, filed October 15, 1999, the [disclosure] disclosures of which [is] are expressly incorporated by reference herein.

The following paragraphs beginning on page 2, line 20 through page 3, line 10 have been added.

According to another aspect of the invention, an apparatus is provided for use with a patient support. The patient support including a frame, a mattress positioned on the frame, and a siderail coupled to the frame. The siderail including a patient control. The apparatus comprising a member configured to be coupled to the siderail and including an external perimeter, wherein the external perimeter of the member is contoured to permit access to a patient control of the siderail.

According to another aspect of the invention, an apparatus is provided for use with a patient support. The patient support including a frame, a mattress positioned on the frame, and a siderail moveable between a raised position blocking egress of a patient from the mattress and a lowered position below the patient rest surface to permit egress of a patient from the mattress. The mattress and the siderail cooperating to define a gap therebetween. The apparatus comprising a member having a first portion positionable in the gap to substantially fill the gap defined between the siderail and the mattress and a second portion positioned directly over the mattress.

According to another aspect of the invention, an apparatus is provided for use with a patient support. The patient support including a frame, a mattress

positioned on the frame, and a siderail coupled to the frame. The siderail being moveable in a longitudinal direction relative to the frame between a raised position blocking egress of a patient from the mattress and a lowered position to permit egress of a patient from the mattress. The mattress and the siderail cooperating to define a gap therebetween. The apparatus comprising a rigid support member, and a gap filler supported by the rigid support member and positionable in the gap to substantially fill the gap defined between the siderail and the mattress.

The paragraph beginning on page 4, line 15 differs from the parent application as follows:

“Fig. 5 is a sectional view similar to Fig. [5] 4, with ...;”

The paragraph beginning on page 8, line 3 differs from the parent application as follows:

“The head-end siderail pad **or member** 100 includes a substantially planar support member or panel 102 made of substantially rigid material, such as hard plastic. The support member 102 includes a first portion 104 configured to be coupled to a head-end siderail 42 and a second portion or **gap filler** 106 configured to extend generally downwardly, parallel to and inboard of (i.e., on the mattress side of) the head-end siderail 42. ... The hook 108 and the extension 110 cooperate to form a slot 112 configured to releasably receive the top portion 50 of the head-end siderail 42 and couple the head-end [siderail] **siderail** pad 100 to siderail 42.”

The paragraph beginning on page 8, line 19 differs from the parent application as follows:

The second portion 106 includes a The head-end siderail pad **or member** 100 further includes an inwardly-projecting bolster 150 coupled to the foam material 118 to couple the bolster 150 to the support member 102. ...”

The paragraph beginning on page 9, line 16 differs from the parent application as follows:

“As shown in Figs. 4-6, a plurality of straps 122 are Any suitable means, such as VELCRO® brand **hook-and-loop type** fasteners 126, buckles (not shown), or interlocking snaps (not shown), or any other fastener known to those of ordinary skill in the art, may be employed to releasably secure the straps 124 to the frame member 68. ...”

The paragraph beginning on page 10, line 3 differs from the parent application as follows:

“As shown in Fig. 6, the head-end siderail pad 100 is **The head-end siderail pad or member 100 has an external perimeter which is contoured to permit access to patient controls 70.** ...”

The paragraph beginning on page 10, line 13 differs from the parent application as follows:

“The foot-end siderail pad **or member** 200, on the other hand, is symmetrical about its central vertical axis 240 as shown in Fig. 7 so that it can be used on either side of the bed 20. The foot-end siderail pad 200 includes a substantially planar support member or panel 202 made of substantially rigid material, such as hard plastic. The support member 202 includes a first portion 204 configured to be coupled to a foot-end siderail 44 and a second portion **or gap filler** 206 configured to extend generally downwardly, parallel to and inboard of (i.e., on the mattress side of) the foot-end siderail 44. ...”

The paragraph beginning on page 10, line 26 differs from the parent application as follows:

“The second portion 206 includes The foot-end siderail pad **or member** 200 further includes an inwardly-projecting bolster 250 coupled to the foam material 218. ...”

The paragraph beginning on page 11, line 10 differs from the parent application as follows:

“The second portion 206 of the support member 202 has Any suitable means, such as VELCRO® brand **hook-and-loop type** fasteners 226, buckles (not shown), or interlocking snaps (not shown), may be employed to releasably secure the straps 224 to the frame member 68.”

The paragraph beginning on page 12, line 23 differs from the parent application as follows:

“Figs. 8 and 9 illustrate a second embodiment head-end siderail pad or apparatus 300. Figs. 10 and 11 illustrate a second embodiment foot-end siderail pad or apparatus 400. The construction of the second embodiment of the head-end and foot-end siderail pads **or members** 300, 400 is generally similar to the construction of the first embodiments of the head-end and foot-end siderail pads **or members** 100, 200. ...”

The paragraph beginning on page 12, line 32 differs from the parent application as follows:

“Referring to Figs. 8 and 9, the head-end siderail pad 300 includes a support member or panel 302 made of substantially rigid material, such as hard plastic. The support member 302 includes a first inclined portion 304 configured to extend generally downwardly, at an angle to and inboard of the head-end siderail 42, and a second parallel portion **or gap filler** 306 configured to extend generally downwardly, parallel to and inboard of the head-end siderail 42. ...”

The paragraph beginning on page 14, line 17 differs from the parent application as follows:

“As shown in Figs. 8 and 9, the head-end siderail pad 300 is asymmetrical about its central vertical axis 340. The head-end siderail pad **or member** 300 is configured to form a window or cutout 328 for providing access to the patient controls 70 mounted on the mattress side of the head-end siderail 42. **The head-end siderail pad or member 300**

has an external perimeter which is contoured to permit access to patient controls 70.
...”

The paragraph beginning on page 14, line 32 differs from the parent application as follows:

“The foot-end siderail pad **or member** 400 is, on the other hand, symmetrical about its central vertical axis 440 as shown in Figs. 10 and 11 so that it can be used on either side of the bed 20. The foot-end siderail pad 400 includes a support member or panel 402 made of substantially rigid material, such as hard plastic. The support member 402 includes a first inclined portion 404 configured to extend generally downwardly, at an angle to and inboard of the foot-end siderail 44, and a second parallel portion **or gap filler** 406 configured to extend generally downwardly, parallel to and inboard of the foot-end siderail 44. ...”

The paragraph beginning on page 16, line 31 differs from the parent application as follows:

“Figs. 14-16 illustrate a third embodiment head-end siderail pad or apparatus 500. Figs. 17-19 illustrate a third embodiment foot-end siderail pad or apparatus 600. The construction of the third embodiment of the head-end and foot-end siderail pads **or members** 500, 600 is generally similar to the construction of the first embodiments of the head-end and foot-end siderail pads 100, 200. ...”

The paragraph beginning on page 17, line 7 differs from the parent application as follows:

“Referring to Fig. 14, the head-end siderail pad **or member** 500 includes a support member or panel 502 made of substantially rigid material, such as hard plastic. The support member 502 includes a first inclined portion 504 configured to extend generally downwardly, at an angle to and inboard of the head-end siderail 42, a second parallel portion **or gap filler** 506 configured to extend generally downwardly, parallel to and inboard of the head-end siderail 42, and a third inclined portion 507 configured to extend generally upward from the second portion 506 at an angle to and inboard of the head-end siderail 42. ...”

The paragraph beginning on page 20, line 9 differs from the parent application as follows:

“As shown in Fig. 15, the head-end siderail pad 500 is asymmetrical about its central vertical axis 540. The head-end siderail pad **or member** 500 is configured to form a window or cutout 528 for providing access to the patient controls 70 mounted on the mattress side of the head-end siderail 42. **The head-end siderail pad or member 500 has an external perimeter which is contoured to permit access to patient controls 70. ...**”

The paragraph beginning on page 20, line 20 differs from the parent application as follows:

“The foot-end siderail pad 600 is, The support member 602 includes a first inclined portion 604 configured to extend generally downwardly, at an angle to and inboard of the foot-end siderail 44, and a second parallel portion **or gap filler** 606 configured to extend generally downwardly, parallel to and inboard of the foot-end siderail 44. ...”

The paragraph beginning on page 20, line 20 differs from the parent application as follows:

“Thus it will be seen that the siderail pads **or members** 100, 200, 300, 400, 500, 600 according to this disclosure provide soft padding 118, 218, 318, 418, 518, 618 around the siderails 42, 44 to prevent injury to a patient or a caregiver. ...”


REMARKS

Applicant respectfully submits this communication herewith the disclosure of the present continuation application for the Examiner's convenience and to bring to the Examiner's attention corrections and additions found in the present continuation application compared to the parent application, except for the new claims. Applicants believe the corrections and additions to the continuation application are supported by the parent case.

Please charge any fees that might be due in connection with this Information Disclosure Statement to Bose McKinney & Evans LLP's Deposit Account No. 02-3223. An extra copy of this Information Disclosure Statement is enclosed for that purpose.

Respectfully submitted,

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